

CHILDS in SOVIET UNION

Complete Indoctrination Of the Russian People Is Seen in Visit to Moscow

Brief Conversation With Premier Khrushchev at a Cocktail Party Indicates Word 'Propaganda' May Be Wrongly Used About Issues Dividing East and West—Are Cultural Exchanges Useful?

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MOSCOW, June 14.

AFTER you are settled in your seat and the Soviet airman has gained altitude a pretty hostess, Russian model, offers the passengers magazines. There are two, the Soviet Union Illustrated Monthly, a fairly professional picture magazine, and Culture and Life, containing articles on a variety of subjects from choosing a career to decorating an apartment. The note, struck repeatedly and consistently throughout both magazines was first, the happiness and well-being of the Soviet people, and second, their desire for peace and their abhorrence of war. To one visiting the Soviet Union for the first time this was the initial impression of what appears inevitably as the outstanding difference between the two worlds of East and West. It is the total, and complete indoctrination of the Soviet citizen.

There is nothing new in this. It corresponds with the fundamental belief of the Communist order. But to the visitor, from the West, seeing for the first time how 200,000,000 people are enclosed within this doctrinal framework, it must seem an astonishing phenomenon. For the great mass of Russians it would appear to be taken for granted. There are some who look longingly out, and perhaps a few who stray. But in the great mass of those who work so hard, so intently, so fiercely almost, the number must be very small.

This reporter on his first day in Moscow had an exchange with Premier Nikita Khrushchev that was proof to him that in discussing the Russian position on the issues dividing East and West it is wrong to use the word "propaganda." The exchange took place at one of the big embassy receptions where the members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, ordinarily so



NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV

He means it.

embassy drawingroom. In the solid affirmation of this short thick man in a nondescript gray suit was the center, the core, of national conviction as beamed to the farthest corners of the Eurasian land mass by every means of modern communication. This is the meaning of Khrushchev and the Soviet system today, and it is breathtaking in its comprehensiveness and its pervasiveness. Whatever of struggle and rivalry may lie below the surface, no one may, in the ordinary course of events, see and it is only the outsider who may speculate about what happens behind the Kremlin walls.

Press Retiring

per cent of the vote and could have been renominated and re-elected. He is serving his tenth term in Congress but with Republican prospects of controlling Congress so unpromising he has decided to go back to Columbus to practice law and perhaps teach history in one of the smaller colleges. He has actively supported the bipartisan foreign policy in Democratic and Republican administrations.

The pattern of these and other Republican retirements indicates that the older Senate and House members are convinced that they not want their time and effort to remain minority members. A veteran Republican in the upper 70s who is certain of re-election, observed, "Some of those retiring think they'll be defeated; the others just can't take it any more."

A Democrat remarked that the Old Guard Republicans who are retiring did not like what was happening to the Republican party under President Eisenhower and Vice President Nixon.

"The Democratic party is divided," he conceded, "but at least our Senators and Representatives seek to make a good career out of Congress regardless of which faction they are in."

In congressional and state elections, the Republicans are being penalized by the lack of young men and women willing to make political professions during the Roosevelt regime when the young Democrats had the advantage in campaigns for local offices which are the stairways to state and national honors. Since the end of World War II, veterans of both parties have had about equal chances in local primaries and elections. This was during the Truman and early Eisenhower administrations when there appeared to be a Republican resurgence in popularity.

The national trend appears to have turned back to the Democrats despite President Eisenhower's personal popularity. Congressional and state elections have demonstrated that he has been unable, though he has tried energetically, to deflect enough of this popularity to Republican candidates to give his party control of Congress and state governments. Vice President Nixon and Senator Knowland are the foremost examples of

seclusive, make themselves available to all comers in a crowded cocktail-party atmosphere.

Khrushchev spoke with the half-humorous, half stern manner characteristic of him, about the truth which should be evident to everyone in the great issue of war and peace. But was there not, the reporter suggested, a truth that lay somewhere between the Russian perspective and the American perspective, and wasn't it necessary to try to find that truth?

But, he would have none of that—going around in circles. As he so often does he had recourse to a homely Russian analogy about the "white bullock." This is a story of an old peasant woman who was forever taking her "white bullock out to graze and forever coming back to the village to report that the bullock had strayed away."

To this observer, Khrushchev seemed to believe every word that he spoke. This was not "propaganda" that he was putting out for a circle of reporters and diplomats in an

embassy drawingroom. In the solid affirmation of this short thick man in a nondescript gray suit was the center, the core, of national conviction as beamed to the farthest corners of the Eurasian land mass by every means of modern communication.

But what this great solid, seemingly impervious mass means for the future and a negotiated settlement is something else. The first tentative step—cultural exchange—has been taken, and the heralds of culture and learning are flying back and forth.

Van Cliburn, the pianist from Texas, was a huge success, enchanting a people who love music and for whom the tall dramatic young American represented something new and spectacular. The joyous vigor and vitality of the Moiseyev dancers have similarly captivated America. The Bolshoi ballet has been appearing in Paris, where every seat was sold out months before and the ballet and Russia's other prize cultural exhibits are being sent to the Brussels Fair in a lavish display of what this country can offer.

The Philadelphia Symphony orchestra has just won wide acclaim here, both from audiences and from reviewers who are often critical not only of foreign artists but of their own. All of this must make for greater goodwill, but whether it alters in any way whatsoever the political climate is the question.

Coincidental with the appearance of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Central Committee of the Communist party issued a decree "on the rectification of errors" of a judgment passed in 1948 on the work of Shostakovich, Khachaturian, Prokofiev and other prominent Russian composers. That earlier judgment had condemned them for "formalism" and failing to represent socialist realism.

These evaluations were found in the new decree to be "inaccurate and erroneous." Construing this doctrinal difference, some Westerners believe the fact that the Philadelphia Orchestra played the music that had been criticized may have helped to bring about the new evaluation. Others have interpreted it as merely a new rebuke to Molotov and Malenkov, who were removed with Khrushchev's rise to power, and presumably the introduction of a less rigid outlook in the arts.

Perhaps, as these things go in this society, so utterly different from our own, this may be a significant change. But if we are to wait on this kind of alteration in order eventually to arrive at some adjustment of the perspectives of East and West we are likely to wait for a